NAYAKE THERO'S LETTER TO P. M.

DROP D. C. BILL

Call for a new Constitution Away With Party System

In Letter to the Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake the Ven. Madihe Pannaseeha Nayake Thero, appeals to the P. M. to drop the D. C. Bill – "This will add to your statuer as a democrat," the Venerable monk says.

Ninety per cent of the people oppose it he adds.

The Ven. monk also calls for a new constitution – drawn up by a Commission which does not include a single politician but, contains men of eminence only.

HERE IS THE FULL TEXT

"THE replies you have sent my letters makes it clear that you are a great democrat and a guardian of democracy both within and outside Parliament. The majority of the people of Ceylon accept you as a democrat of highest calibre. They believe that in regard to District Councils too you would act as a democrat"

"I think the peresent Government is described as a National Government because it consists of seven parties including the UNP. I do not think that any party, save the FP, made any comments about District Councils. It could be said with certainty that if this matter was mentioned, the people would not have voted as they did. This would apply just as much to the SLFP and its United Front."

Examining these things intelligently and impartially it is clear that 90 per cent of the people of this country opose District Counciles. It would be seen that if a free vote is taken in parliament, about 90 per cent of the MPs would oppose the proposals. In the light of these things I would like to say that you, a true democrat, should give up this proposal.

Doing so would not any way reflect on you. Your acceptance of the democratic way is a beacon of light. The respect and the faith that the people have in you would increase ten fold.

Such a step would be of great assistance to your endeavour to make this country self-sufficient.

This system of party government does not suit this country. Twenty years after independence the county has only suffered from this system of government. Communal, regional, family and individual squabbles have incresed many-fold because of this paty system. It could be said that husbands and wives and members of families have qarreied with each other because of party politics.

It coud be said that your father, late Prime Minister D. S. Senanayake also held this view. People with whom he discussed this matter are still alive. If not for his untimely death there is ground for the belief that a system that would have replaced party government would have been formulated before the second general election.

Mr. S. W. R. D Bandaranayake too had accepted the faults of the system of party government. He was a person who had ideas of working out a system of Government

which would suit this country. He was assassinaterd at a time when he intended to travel abroad and return home to establish such a system of Government.

Nearly 90 per cent of the people of this country now accept thet party Government is the ruin of the nation. The Sinhalese race would be finished. If this system of govermment continues any longer. At a time that these controversies rage and there is this disunity the establisment of a Republic would be fatal. I therefore ask you to abandon this idea too.

Mr. Prime Minister, think of these things wisely and impartially. Appiont a Commission to work out a system of Government that would suit this country. I ask for this out of a unbounden love for country, race, religion and language.

There should be no politicians on that Commission. People who owe no allegiance to any political party should be appointed to that Commission.

Appoint wise and intelligent people this body. Seven judges of the supreme court (even retired judges) would suit the purpose. This would be a foundation for a united Ceylon.

By so doing, disputes such as the one over District Councils, Communal and religious strife would end. The country would be developed and there would be a united and prosperous Lanka. That much is certain.

P. M. MAY DROP D. C. BILL IF… SAYS MADIHE NAYAKE THERO

Ven Madihe Pannaseeha Maha Nayake Thero told the "Observer" yersterday that he was confident that the prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, would drop the Distrct Council Bill if both the public and parliament were opposed to it.

Ven. Maha Nayake Thero said this after his meeting with the prime Minister at "Woodlands" on the night of july 3. He said that the Prime Minister gave him a very patient and attentive hearing.

The Maha Nayake Thero had pointed out that if the District Councils were set up it would inevitably lead to a separate Tamil state. He said that areas like Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniy, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Amparai are bound to form a separate state as they were linked not only geographically but culturally and linguistically as well.

Ven. Madihe Pannaseeha Theo is expected to release his open reply to the prime Miniser today.

(Above is an extract of a report that appeared as the leader on the first page of Ceylon Observer in its issue of 05-07-1968 Containing a letter addressed to the then Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayaka on the subject of District Councils by Ven. Madihe Pannaseeha Mahanayaka thera and a reply received form the P. M. in return)

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